

be able to afford replacement houses after the storm. Unless we are able to provide grants, there are many businesses, especially small farmers who were in business before the storm, but will not be able to return or remain in business because of the storm.

Over the years, America has come to the aid of many in foreign countries, as we should and as we must continue to do. We have helped to rebuild Europe. We have helped to boost the recovery of Japan. We have come and will continue to come again and again to the aid of Kosovo. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can come to the aid of our fellow citizens in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, America is at its best when conditions of our fellow citizens are at their worst. America was at its best on November 6 when those Members and staffers gave of their hearts and time and hands to those storm-torn communities and to the flood victims.

In the budget agreement we just voted on, Congress did indeed provide some immediate relief, for which I am very appreciative, although I was forced to vote against the bill because it did not contain \$81 million promised by the Senate leadership for the agriculture cooperative that would have aided our tobacco farmers, our peanut and cotton farmers. There were indeed provisions in there that will provide a response to the Housing needs and additional resources for agriculture and loans and grants. I also want to thank the administration for its support.

With this budget, we have made a significant step, but only a step. Much, much more is needed before we can say that Congress has done its part. We must, indeed, do more.

#### TRAGEDY AT TEXAS A&M

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as one of the last speakers to speak in this chamber in this century in terms of other than the purely procedural motion, it is with great sadness that I rise this evening to talk of a terrible tragedy that happened early this morning in College Station, Texas.

The university where I graduated from in 1972 and where my father graduated from in 1947, where my son graduated from in 1993, and my daughter in 1997, has a tradition called Bonfire. Students spend several months going out and first cutting down the logs and then transporting the logs to the campus, and then once on campus, sorting them out and stacking them together to create a bonfire which some years has been over 100 feet tall, and which this year was somewhere about 40 feet tall and was scheduled to be about 60 feet tall. Earlier this morning, some-

where between 2:30 and 3 a.m., the bonfire stack catastrophically collapsed, sending 50 to 60 students that were on the stack plummeting down. Unfortunately, at least six of them have been killed; over 20 have been injured. There are still five unaccounted for, and there is a possibility that the death toll could rise to over 10 students.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrible tragedy for Texas A&M; it is a terrible tragedy for the families of the victims; it is a terrible tragedy for young people in our country. It is a sad, sad day in College Station, Texas.

Texas A&M truly is a family. There are over 250,000 living former students of Texas A&M, and the Aggie family, literally all over the world, is in shock and mourning for the students and their families, the students that were injured and killed and their families.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other Aggie traditions, one of which, unfortunately, will have to be utilized in the very near future. Silver Taps is a tradition at Texas A&M where any student that dies while an active student, there is a ceremony on campus where all of the lights are turned out in the evening, all the students gather at a common area in front of the academic building and Silver Taps are played. So sometime in December, there will be Silver Taps for the students that were killed earlier this morning and Aggies mourn their passing.

There is a memorial service that is going on as we speak. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), whose district Texas A&M is located in, flew down to College Station earlier this afternoon to be with the students there as they have that memorial service this evening.

The bonfire has been held every year but one year since 1909. In 1963, after the assassination of President Kennedy, the bonfire was canceled. That is the only time that it has been canceled until next week. Because of the tragic accident, there will be no bonfire at Texas A&M next week before the football game between Texas University and Texas A&M.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strongest sympathy this evening. I would ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pray for the families whose children have been killed or injured. I have one more daughter, Kristin, who is a senior in high school this year, and she hopes to attend Texas A&M. It is my hope that the A&M administration, President Bowen, who is an excellent academic leader and faculty leader at Texas A&M, will conduct a full investigation of this accident. If there is a way to find a cause and to prevent it from happening in the future, I know that he will do that, but I also hope that we do not cancel the bonfire in the future.

Again, hundreds of thousands of former students of Texas A&M have

participated in the bonfire. With almost no exceptions, those who have participated have nothing but the warmest, fondest memories. We need to grieve for our students who lost their lives early this morning; we need to support the investigation to find the cause of that catastrophic accident, and hopefully we can come up with safety procedures so that the bonfire can continue in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues pray for the families of those students who lost their lives early this morning at Texas A&M.

#### GIVE A KID A CHANCE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the delegation from Texas, let me join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), to offer my sympathy to the families of the victims of the bonfire tragedy at Texas A&M University, those who lost their lives and those who were severely injured. My sympathy to my colleague, Congressman BRADY whose district the university is in, and my sympathy to my constituents, many of whom attend Texas A&M and whose family members have attended Texas A&M. My prayers are with them and their families, and I hope that they will know that they are in our thoughts and that the university will proceed with a review of the circumstances. But I offer to them my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the children of America, more than 13.7 million that suffer from severe mental health disorders. When we think of the tragedies that we have discussed over the past year, the hateful acts of students allegedly in Cleveland, Ohio; the tragedy of a killing of a middle school youngster in my own community; the enormous tragedy of Columbine; the killings in Fort Worth, Texas and Jonesboro, we do know that our children need help, need aid, need nurturing, and need intervention.

Mr. Speaker, more than 13.7 million children in America suffer from severe mental disorders. I have long been an advocate for children's mental health services because I believe that good mental health is indispensable to overall good health.

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 1999. H.R. 3455 was offered and filed with over 42 original cosponsors. I believe that all children need access to mental health services, whether these services are provided in a private therapy session or in a group setting, in our communities, or available as an intervention method in our

schools. My bill will provide mental health services to children, adolescents and their families in our schools and communities. By making these services more readily available, more accessible, more known, we can spot mental health issues in children early before we have escalated or they have escalated these incidences into violence.

Mr. Speaker, at least one in five children in adolescence has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral problem that can lead to school failure, substance abuse, violence or suicide. However, 75 to 80 percent of these children do not receive any services in the form of specialty treatment or some form of mental health intervention.

Mr. Speaker, it is not always the kind of specialized treatment that is needed, but just to be able to give the family and parents access to some form of counseling that will be readily available that would not be distant, that would not be overly exorbitant in cost, that would not be beyond their reach. The lack of access to mental health services has resulted in an increase of children dropping out of school, becoming involved in delinquent or criminal activity and becoming involved in the juvenile justice or protective child systems.

In light of the Columbine tragedy and other violent events of the past 7 months, our children need us to pay close attention to the early signs of mental disorders. Clearly there are warning signs of trouble in young people that point to the possibility of emotional and behavioral disorders. These warning signs include isolation, depression, alienation and hostility. But if they have no access either through the community or school health services or their parents do not know where to go, these terrible warning signs can turn into actions of violence. Recognizing these signs is the first step to ensuring that the troubled youngsters get the attention they need early to address their mental health needs before it is too late.

Although the problem of youth violence cannot be traced to a single cause or source, unrecognized or unaddressed mental health disorders in children can be catastrophic. The current mental health system fails to provide a refuge for these children before they are dumped into the juvenile justice system. Two-thirds of the children who are in the juvenile justice system need mental health intervention. I believe that prevention and intervention from an early age are critical to stemming the tide of youth violence. We must put something in place to intervene in a child's life.

This bill provides for a comprehensive, community-based, culturally competent and developmentally appropriate prevention and early intervention program that provides for the

identification of early mental health problems and promotes the mental health and enhances the resiliency of children from birth to adolescence and their families.

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It incorporates families, schools and communities in an integral role in the programs. It coordinates behavioral health care services, Mr. Speaker, interventions and support in traditional and nontraditional settings and, finally, it provides a continuum of care for children from birth through adolescence along with their families.

Let me close simply, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I hope that all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, will join in a unified voice in support of pushing this legislation quickly, because we are in great need of providing the kind of comfort and support of our children, intervention, support, mental health services accessible to all.

I rise today on behalf of the children—the more than 13.7 million that suffer from severe mental health disorders. I have long been an advocate for children's mental health services because I believe that good mental health is indispensable to overall good health. Today I introduced a bill, "Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 1999," H.R. 3455 with forty-two (42) Original Co-Sponsors.

I believe that all children need access to mental health services. Whether these services are provided in a private therapy session or in a group setting in the schools, we need to make these services available.

My bill will provide mental health services to children, adolescents and their families in the schools and communities. By making these services more readily available, we can spot mental health issues in children early before we have escalated incidents of violence.

At least one in five children and adolescents has a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral problem that can lead to school failure, substance abuse, violence or suicide. However, 75 to 80 percent of these children do not receive any services in the form of specialty treatment or some form of mental health intervention.

The lack of access to mental health services has resulted in an increase of children dropping out of school, becoming involved in delinquent or criminal activity, and becoming involved in the juvenile justice or child protective systems.

In light of the Columbine tragedy and other violent events of the past seven months, our children need us to pay close attention to the early signs of mental disorders. Clearly, there are warning signs of trouble in young people that point to the possibility of emotional and behavioral disorders. These warning signs include isolation, depression, alienation and hostility.

Recognizing these signs is the first step to ensure that troubled youngsters get the attention they need early to address their mental health needs before it is too late. Although the problem of youth violence cannot be traced to a single cause or source, unrecognized or unaddressed mental health disorders in children can be catastrophic.

The current mental health system fails to provide a refuge for these children before they are dumped into the juvenile justice system. I believe that prevention and intervention from an early age are critical to stemming the tide of youth violence. We must put a system in place that can intervene in a child's life early on, long before the first act of violence is ever committed.

However, there is a greater need to address the mental health needs of all children, not just those who end up in the juvenile justice system. We need to address the mental health needs of all children before they become at-risk or troubled youth. Our children need to feel more comfortable about seeking help for their problems.

In preparing this legislation, I worked with a coalition of mental health professionals—psychologists, counselors, social workers and others to create comprehensive mental health legislation that will benefit all children and their families.

Mental health is indispensable to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships. Mental health is the basis for thinking and communication skills, learning, emotional growth, resilience and self-esteem.

There were several issues that we considered—access to services, the issue of stigma and the cultural and ethnic barriers to treatment. This bill addresses each of these concerns. Access to mental health services is key to saving this generation from self-destructive behavior.

In addition to access, there is the significant issue of stigma, particularly among the various cultural groups in this country. As we all know, there is already a significant stigma attached to mental health services for adults.

Adults need to realize that mental health is not separate from physical or bodily health. Good physical health is all encompassing, inclusive of the mind and body. As adults, we need to feel more comfortable about our own issues. We cannot continue to believe in the stigma of mental help.

We must also explore the cultural and ethnic barriers to making mental health services available to all children. In certain ethnic cultures, the issue of mental health is almost a non-issue. For example, in some cultures, a person may complain of physical discomfort when the real issue is of a psychological nature.

In addition to internal cultural barriers to mental health treatment, there are cross-cultural barriers that must be overcome. Mental health professionals must be culturally savvy and have an understanding of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

People from various cultural backgrounds are often mistrustful of seeking professional mental health services because of a lack of trust in the system, economic constraints, and limited awareness of the value of good mental health. The challenge to the mental health profession is to overcome these barriers to provide comprehensive treatment.

This silence ultimately harms our children. For example, in the African-American community mental health is rarely discussed and it often goes untreated in both adults and children. Depression is the most common mental health disorder affecting 10 percent of the

population, yet we still do not engage in a public dialogue about this issue.

The progress we make now in terms of mental health access and treatment, erasing the stigma and overcoming the cultural barriers will be long reaching.

I urge my colleagues to add their names to the list of cosponsors of this legislation. In the next session, I look forward to this bill passing.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of family illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARTON of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEACH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARTON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MYRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 278. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico.

S. 382. An act to establish the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 1235. An act to amend part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow railroad police officers to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy for law enforcement training.

S. 1398. An act to clarify certain boundaries on maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 19, 1999, at noon.

#### OATH OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 106th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

JOE BACA, Forty-second, California.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5439. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Dairy Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the New England and Other Marketing Areas; Exemption of Handlers Operating Plants in Clark County, Nevada, From Order Requirements [Docket No. DA-00-01] received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5440. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Herbicide Safener HOE-107892; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300933; FRL-6385-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5441. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's final rule—Glyphosate; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300946; FRL-6390-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5442. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clopyralid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300938; FRL-6388-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5443. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Avermectin B1 and its delta-8,9-isomer; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300948; FRL-6391-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5444. A letter from the Acquisition and Technology, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report entitled "Establishing an Entitlement to Reimburse Rental Car Costs to Military Service Members"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5445. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a Report On Proposed Obligations For Weapons Destruction And Non-Proliferation In The Former Soviet Union; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5446. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; General Conformity [CO-001-0035a; UT-001-0023a; WY-001-0004a; FRL-6471-4] received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5447. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Approval of Carbon Monoxide State Implementation Plan Revision; Determination of Carbon Monoxide Attainment; Removal of Oxygenated Gasoline Program [Region 2 Docket No. NJ37-2-203 FRL-6477-3] received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5448. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Iowa Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [IA 075-1075; FRL-6462-3] received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5449. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—NESHAPS: Final Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Hazardous Waste Combustors [FRL-6477-9] (RIN: 2050-AE01) received November 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5450. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: